

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

**THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JUAN
PUERTO RICO,**

Plaintiff,

v.

EXXON MOBIL CORP. et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:23-cv-01608-ADC

**DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STRIKE PLAINTIFF'S
RACKETEERING CASE STATEMENT (Dkt. No. 76)**

TO THE HONORABLE COURT:

COME NOW the undersigned Defendants Chevron Corporation, Exxon Mobil Corporation, Motiva Enterprises LLC, and ConocoPhillips, through their respective counsel, and hereby request that Plaintiff's *Racketeering Case Statement* (the "RICO Case Statement," Dkt. No. 76) be stricken from the record. In support of this motion, the undersigned Defendants state and pray as follows:

1. As detailed in Defendants' *Opposition to Motion Requesting Leave for Plaintiff to File Instanter* (Dkt. No. 71) and *Motion to Strike Plaintiff's Responses* (Dkt. Nos. 72-73) to *Defendants' Motions to Dismiss* (the "Opposition to Instanter Motion," Dkt. No. 75), since April, Plaintiff has made multiple inconsistent attempts to remedy its failure to timely oppose Defendants' Motions to Dismiss.¹ See Opposition to Instanter Motion at 1-6. Plaintiff has never

¹ Defendants refer collectively to their motions to dismiss as the "Motions to Dismiss." See Dkt. Nos. 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39.

offered any valid excuse justifying its failure to timely oppose the Motions to Dismiss. Accordingly, Defendants have moved to strike Plaintiff's purported Responses to the Motions to Dismiss and requested that the Motions to Dismiss be deemed unopposed and granted. Plaintiff's Responses were filed late, without excusable neglect and without leave of Court, and plagiarize papers filed by other plaintiffs in another case. *See id.; see also Defendants' Motion to Deem Motions to Dismiss and Related Motions Unopposed* (Dkt. No. 41); *Defendants' (1) Second Request to Deem Motions to Dismiss and Related Motions Unopposed, or (2) in the Alternative, Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File Omnibus Oppositions to Defendants' Motions to Dismiss* (Dkt. No. 67).²

2. On June 25, 2024, Plaintiff submitted a purported *Racketeering Case Statement* (the “RICO Statement,” Dkt. No. 76). The RICO Statement is yet another belated and improper filing. Like the Responses, Plaintiff's RICO Statement was filed late, without excusable neglect and without leave of Court, and it plagiarizes the Amended Racketeering Case Statement filed in *Municipality of Bayamón et al. v. Exxon Mobil Corporation et al.*, Civil No. 22-1550 (SCC-HRV) (the “Bayamón case”). Like the Responses, it should be stricken from the record.

3. The purpose of RICO case statements is to “adduce the specifics that underlie general claims of RICO misconduct.” *O'Ferral v. Trebol Motors Corp.*, 45 F.3d 561, 562 (1st Cir. 1995). Thus, they are intended to elicit in detail the facts on which plaintiff relied to institute the RICO claims as a result of the “reasonable inquiry” required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure

² By its Instanter Motion, Plaintiff sought leave of Court to file its untimely Responses to the Motions to Dismiss. *See* Dkt. No. 71. However, absent leave of Court to file the Responses, Plaintiff should have tendered them as attachments to its Instanter Motion, rather than as separate docket entries. Further, absent leave to file the Responses, the time to reply thereto has not begun to run. *See* L. Civ. R. 7(c) (which presupposes that the opposition to a motion was timely filed under L. Civ. R. 7(b) in order for the seven-day period to reply to start to run).

11. *See, e.g.*, Standing Order, Matter No. 12-mc-547 (JAG), U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico (copy attached hereto as Exhibit A); *Home Orthopedics Corp. v. Rodriguez*, No. CV 11-1591 (DRD), 2011 WL 13136281, at *1 (D.P.R. Aug. 23, 2011) (explaining that “the purpose of a RICO case statement is to enhance a vague complaint with additional details”) (quoting *Delrio-Mocci v. Connolly Ptops. Inc.*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 84459, at *7–8 (D.N.J. 2009)). As such, when concurrently filed with the complaint, they are viewed as extensions of a plaintiff’s pleading. *See, e.g.*, *Miranda v. Ponce Federal Bank*, 948 F.2d 41, 44 n.3 (1st Cir. 1991) (treating the RICO case statement “as an extension of the amended complaint”); *Glessner v. Kenny*, 952 F.2d 702, 712 n.10 (3d Cir. 1991) (“Courts may consider the RICO case statement in assessing whether plaintiffs’ RICO claims should be dismissed.”), *overruled on other grounds by Jaguar Cars, Inc. v. Royal Oaks Motor Car Co.*, 46 F.3d 258 (3d Cir. 1995).

4. Here, Plaintiff plagiarized the *Amended Racketeering Case Statement* filed by the plaintiffs in the *Bayamón* case. Compare Dkt. No. 76 with *Bayamón* case Dkt. No. 206 (copy attached hereto as Exhibit B). Notably, Plaintiff’s RICO Statement expressly refers to allegations that are not found in Plaintiff’s Complaint as well as to parties that are not defendants in this case, such as the American Petroleum Institute. Compare Dkt. No. 1 with *Bayamón* case Dkt. 205.³ As such, Plaintiff’s RICO Statement is plainly *not* the product of any Rule 11 inquiry conducted by Plaintiff or its counsel prior to asserting the RICO claims in this case.

5. Because it is not the result of any investigation by Plaintiff or its counsel, the RICO Statement does not support Plaintiff’s RICO claims and it cannot be considered an extension

³ Notably, while the Plaintiff in this case copied the *original Complaint* filed in the *Bayamón* case, *see Bayamón case*, Dkt. No. 1, it copied the *Amended Racketeering Case Statement* filed in that case, *see id.* Dkt. No. 206, which in turn refers to the allegations in the *Amended Complaint* in that case, *see id.* Dkt. No. 205.

of Plaintiff's Complaint. If anything, that statement highlights Plaintiff's continued lack of diligence and blatant plagiarism.

6. Plaintiff's RICO Statement also should be stricken because the failure to file that statement in connection with the Complaint is both improper and highly prejudicial to the Defendants. Indeed, Plaintiff's RICO Statement was filed *nearly three months after Defendants filed their Motions to Dismiss*. Because Plaintiff copied the original *Complaint* in the *Bayamón* case, the Complaint in this case incorrectly refers to a prior "RICO Case Statement," Dkt. No. 1, ¶¶ 696-97, but no such thing exists in this case. Plaintiff never filed or served a RICO Case Statement before Defendants filed their Motions to Dismiss. The Motions to Dismiss noted this defect in Plaintiff's pleading. *See, e.g., Defendants' Joint Motion to Dismiss* (Dkt. No. 34) at 1 n.2, 17, 29, 33 & n.18. Thus, Plaintiff's late filing of the RICO Statement is not only improper, but also is highly prejudicial to Defendants. *Cf. Barrus v. Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.*, 732 F. Supp. 2d 243, 259 (W.D.N.Y. 2010) (dismissing RICO complaint where plaintiff failed to timely file RICO case statement and made no showing the failure was due to excusable neglect and noting that "the failure to file a RICO statement . . . results in a lack of information to the Court and Defendants, with regard to the RICO allegations").

WHEREFORE, Defendants respectfully request that this Honorable Court enter an order striking Plaintiff's *Racketeering Case Statement*, Dkt. No. 76.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 11th day of July 2024.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the above date, I filed this document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to counsel record who are CM/ECF system participants at their corresponding e-mail addresses.

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